

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on October 12, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Agate post office located in Agate, Colorado. The petition for review was filed online on October 12, 2012 by Gail Pitzer (Petitioner).

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 27, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: October 13, 2011

Attachment



## Mutual Telephone

*Your Local Telephone Cooperative*

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Submitted 10/12/2011 1:56:02 PM  
Filing ID: 76624  
Accepted 10/12/2011

October 11, 2011

Ms. Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington, D C 20268-0001

Dear Madam Chairman:

I wish to protest the closure of the Agate Post Office. Our company feels, once again, the rural areas are being penalized for circumstances beyond our control.

In a time when gas is high, communities need services, and rural areas need support I am very concerned about the closure. We really need our post office.

Our company, Agate Mutual Telephone sends approximately 300 bills each month and use priority mail, some express mail and general first class. To think we have to drive 12 miles one way just to get service is not satisfactory. There are times when an Express Mail or Priority Mail needs to go out the day I receive a letter. Having to drive 24 miles round trip to send it back to the sender, is not productive or cost effective.

I understand the financial problem the Postal Service is facing now has little to do with the area but rather an overfunding of the pension funds as well the prefunding of the retiree health benefits. Closing the small offices are one the those cost savings measures that are popular to some mid-level postal officials because they can look good with the impression that they are driving large cost out of the system.

It is also important to note that, according to you, the Postal Regulatory Commission, maintaining all small and rural Post Offices amounts to less than 0.7% of the Postal Service operating budget. Small post offices are the glue that binds rural America together. Something some urbanites have trouble understanding. They cannot fathom living in a small town where you know all your neighbors by their first name.

I offered some savings suggestions to our District Manager and I feel they did not even consider them at all. I will suggest them to you.

- There are 45 miles between Agate and Watkins, Colorado and six small towns between the mileages. Could one or two Postmasters oversee these small offices? You could save four Postmaster salaries, with clerks and rural route carriers to sort and deliver mail.
- If there is a problem with hours and wages, change the business hours to 8:00-2:00, which could give the employees time enough to get the mail ready to go out by 5:00.

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- Perhaps the Post Office needs to sell office supplies or other items to increase its sales.
- Perhaps we have more managers than we have workers and therefore eliminating upper management.

Post Offices are part of a universal communications network. Each unit cannot be evaluated independently, since revenue for a mail piece may be earned in one community and the value added in delivery is accrued in another. In order to ensure nondiscriminatory mail service throughout the nation, Congress obligates the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular mail service to rural areas, communities and small towns where Postal Offices are not self-sustaining. In our view, the Postal Service's proposal to close the Agate Post Office will reduce mail service to us.

I also know that current law protects rural areas, communities, and small towns from wholesale Post Office closures that will have a dramatic adverse impact on the communities.

I urge you to reconsider Dean J. Granholm's, Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations recommendation and look for other ways to correct the budget.

It seems to me if a Postmaster General cannot balance the budget any other way, then maybe he doesn't need a \$850,000 salary and bonuses.

I thank you for your time and hope you remember why the Pony Express and the Postal Service was started...to deliver the mail.

Sincerely,



Gail Pitzer,  
General Manager/CEO